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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Warren W. Watts of Tri-County Pastoral Counseling Services, Martinsburg, WV.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Spirit, eternal light of this world, who knows each of us and is with us always. As the Members of this Senate gather, may their hearts be open, their spirits willing, and their minds challenged by the business of this day.

We thank You, Lord, for the dedication shared by this elected body. While representing a variety of people from different professional settings, they all share a common goal of helping and guiding our people and this Nation we lovingly call the United States of America.

Heavenly Spirit, be for each Senator their strength, their armor and their shield in facing and overcoming the many challenges of operating an effective government.

Let these Senators serve with integrity and courage and bless each family and State represented. As our forefathers trusted in You, may this be the legacy of this Senate and of our great Nation. All that we have, all that we are, we owe to You, our God. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LINCOLN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half, the Republicans controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2663, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission. When the Senate resumes consideration of that measure, there will be 15 minutes for debate prior to a vote in relation to the Vitter amendment, amendment No. 4097. It relates to attorney's fees.

Senators should be prepared to vote sometime early this morning before 11 o'clock.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2709, S. 2710, S. 2711, S. 2712, S. 2713, S. 2714, S. 2715, S. 2716, S. 2717, S. 2718, S. 2719, S. 2720, S. 2721, AND S. 2722

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding there are 14 bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2709) to increase the criminal penalties for illegally reentering the United States and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2710) to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to use an employer's failure to timely resolve discrepancies with the Social Security Administration after receiving a "no match" notice as evidence that the employer violated section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A bill (S. 2711) to improve the enforcement of laws prohibiting the employment of unauthorized aliens and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2712) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to complete at least 700 miles of reinforced fencing along the Southwest border by December 31, 2010, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2713) to prohibit appropriated funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

A bill (S. 2714) to close the loophole that allowed the 9/11 hijackers to obtain credit cards from United States banks that financed their terrorist activities, to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot obtain credit cards to evade United States immigration laws, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2715) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the national language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2716) to authorize the National Guard to provide support for the border control activities of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2717) to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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